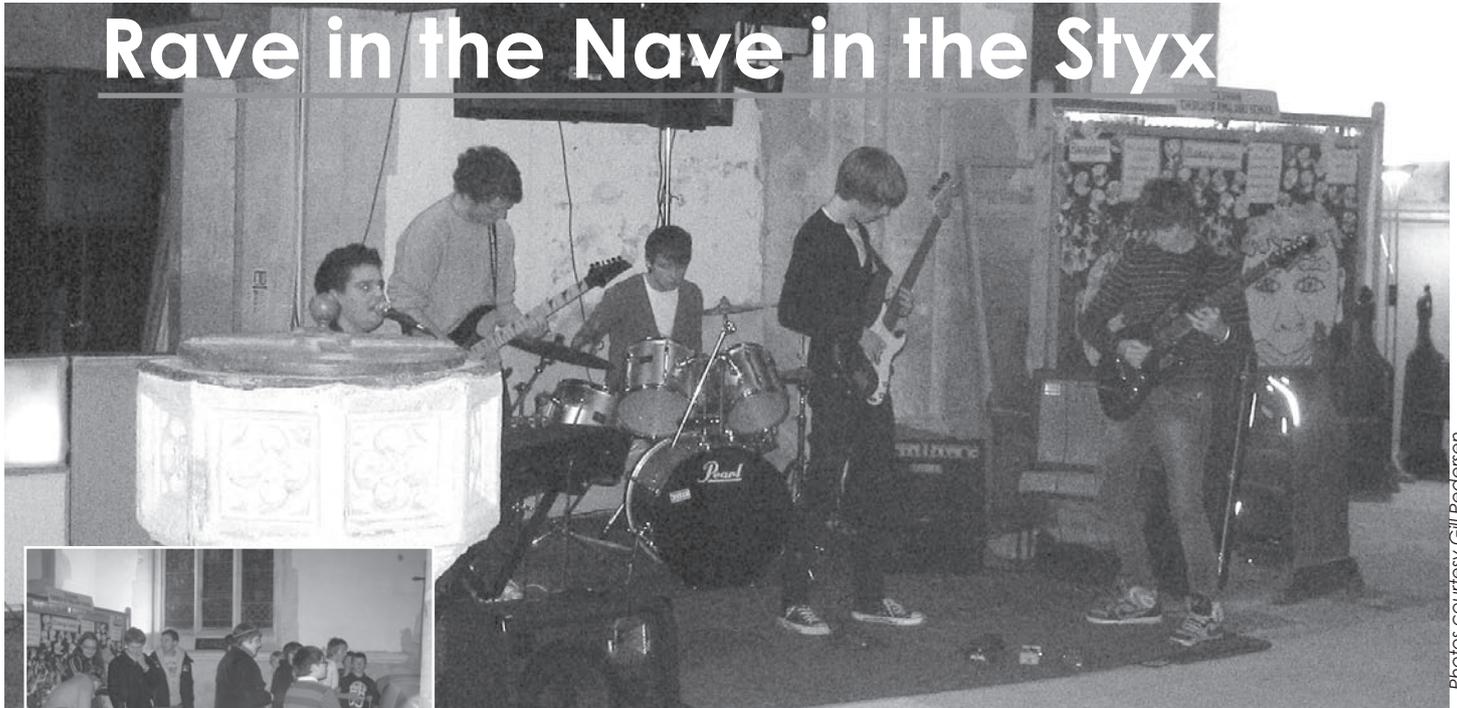


Rave in the Nave in the Styx



Photos courtesy Gill Pedersen

DOC Rock St Andrew's!



Following the success of last year's 'Sponsored Sleep-Over in Church'

for Children in Need, St Andrew's, Isleham hosted another fundraising event on Sunday 15th December. Their 'Rave in the Nave in the Styx', inspired by the huge annual event at Ely Cathedral, raised over £400 and everyone involved had a great time. There were three bands: Unauthorised, comprising of young people who attend Soham Village College; DOC, an established band of local 17/18 year olds; and The Running Mayfairs who have played several times at The Junction in Cambridge. All gave their time and expenses for free. There were Wii Fit and Playstation games, giant Jenga, a tuck shop and a brilliant disco courtesy of John Bedford. Sylvia and Bob Allen kindly donated and manned the Bungee Run which proved very popular with the young, and not so young! There were several behind-the-scenes benefactors to whom we are also very grateful.

We hope you make this an annual event, and perhaps by making it on a Friday night and relaxing the age limit we can attract more young people from around the area next year!

Gill Pedersen

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From the Editor

Sorry. No room this time: we've had too many:

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

Through the *Informer* I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who so kindly gave me cards, flowers and gifts, and to all the lodges who donated to the Marina's collection upon my leaving Isleham on 26th September.

Also a big thank you to Ian, Yvonne, Tula and Anthea at the Post Office for all their help over the past four years and also Christine, Deborah and Michael (my colleagues). I was so sad to leave and I will miss you all.

Best wishes,

Bess the Postlady

Dear Editor,

Many of the *Informer* readers may be unaware of the small, friendly and dedicated allotment community that work the land at the Dunstall Allotments in Station Road. Just recently there

Continued on Page 3

Contents

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Star Performers at Disneyland; St Andrew's Crafts & Collections | 8 Isleham Washes Stewardship Scheme update |
| 2 From the Editor; Contacts; Advertising; Next issue | 10 Parish Council News |
| 3 Village Notes; Announcements | 12 Bowls Club report |
| 4 Star Performers at Disneyland continued; St Andrew's Crafts & Collections continued | 13 Isleham Under 5s; Women's Institute report |
| 5 ICA report | 14 PCSO report; Neighbourhood Panels update |
| 6 New High Street church | 15 Joyce's Corner; Dial-a-Ride |
| | 16 What's on in Isleham; Isleham Guides |
| | 17 Village clubs |
| | 18 Churches' News |

CONTACTS: Editor and Design Ed Mayall T: 01638 780839 E: ed@isleham-informer.org.uk **Subeditor** Alison Marsh E: alisonmarsh@tiscali.co.uk **Features** Glenda Preece T: 01638 780734 E: gjpreece@aol.com Mark Stevens T: 01638 780360 **Advertising** Kelvin Morgan T: 01638 781384 E: kelvin@isleham-computers.co.uk **Distribution** Richard Turner T: 01638 780965

NEXT ISSUE: The next issue will be published 1st February 2010. The copy deadline for all editorial and advertising is 9th January 2010.

DISCLAIMER: The *Informer* would like to point out that we have neither tried nor tested all of the products and services advertised in these pages and therefore cannot accept responsibility for the veracity of any claims made.

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have been a number of incidents that have deeply saddened the allotment holders. The allotments appear to be the targets of people that are determined to destroy and disrupt the pleasure that this pastime provides us with.

Incidents include:

Pumpkins deliberately slashed. Chickens attacked, with one chicken having to be destroyed as a direct result. Chicken runs vandalised causing the birds to escape. Sheds vandalised with doors, locks and windows being broken. If anybody has any idea who is responsible for these mindless attacks please call Cambridgeshire Police on 0845 4564564. In the meantime we will not be downhearted and will continue to enjoy our hobby and would welcome new allotment holders to join us and utilise the unused plots. There is nothing more rewarding (and cheaper) than producing your own vegetables and eating them.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Oliver

Dear Editor,

May I, through the pages of the *Informer*, ask those moronic dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs have fouled the pavements around Isleham to do the decent thing and clear up the mess straight away.

Not only is it revolting to see, but it is a health hazard when children get it on their shoes and walk it into school and home.

As autumn is now here, it is quite often the case that the mess is covered with leaves and not noticed until it is too late.

I wonder if the culprits are lazy people who simply could not care less about others, or is it that their brains are the same as the contents of their dog's backside?

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Boughton-Fox

To the Editor,

I am writing to ask you to thank the people of Isleham for the support they have given to the raffle that was held at the Comrades Club on 30th September, on behalf of the charity 'Support our Soldiers' (www.supportoursoldiers.co.uk).

SOS is an established charity that sends parcels to our troops overseas; it is the only charity sending parcels to our troops that has the full backing of the Ministry of Defence. Last Christmas it sent 12,000 parcels to our troops (it also sends parcels throughout the year as well). For every parcel it sends, it also donates 50p to BLESMA (The British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association).

Prizes were donated by the Post Office, Patterson's, The Co-op, Priory Garage, Ridgeons and so many individual donations that I cannot name all the people who donated as there could not be enough room in the *Informer*.

The raffle raised £215, which is enough to send over 40 parcels. There were also several people who did not want raffle tickets, but made donations of £5 which is the cost to send one parcel. (This is over and above the £215 from the raffle.)

I have been involved with this charity for a few years, as my son is a serving infantry soldier who has served in Iraq, and is going to be on his 3rd tour of Afghanistan by the time this is published in the *Informer*.

Once again, many thanks to the people of Isleham for their support.

Mary Kennedy (Mary.kennedy12@btinternet.com)

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ICA Community Centre Update

Financial situation, refundable donations, public meetings etc.



There have been mixed fortunes over the past two months. As you may have read in the *Newmarket Journal*, the good news is that planning permission has been received. On the negative side our Sport England application was unsuccessful. We will apply to them

again when the next funding rounds are announced. Our substantial Football Foundation grant is however 'safe' – provided we can secure additional funds elsewhere.

Referring back to the *Journal* article, it stated that the estimated project cost is to be £1.6 million. This figure should by no means be taken as gospel. It was provided by our quantity surveyor, based on what are currently only outline specifications. He would concede that he is erring on the side of caution and that the actual figure could well be lower. It also assumes that all work will be carried out by the main contractor, whereas our Project Management committee are examining all possible cost-saving opportunities e.g. use of local sub-contractors/labour, particularly on some external works. (The actual building cost has been calculated to be approximately £1 million, with a staggering £0.6 million for external works.)

If one assumes the worst case scenario of £1.6 million, then the current funding deficit would be about £0.7 million – so what are we doing about this? As stated, one priority is to lower the building cost. In terms of grants more are still possible from many national sources, and no doubt more will come on stream. Frustratingly, however, they will not commit until they are confident that the project is definitely going ahead i.e. only after we have been able to show a reduction in the deficit. To do this, first and foremost local/regional support has to be called upon. Businesses and potential local benefactors are being targeted with the aid of a brochure. (Remember

that copies of the brochure are available from the Co-op and the Post Office – please collect one and put it on a Manager's desk!)

As you know, private donations are being sought via a 'Buy-a-Brick' scheme (spare copies in Post Office/Co-op). At the time of writing only a few such donations have been received. One crucial fact to add to the explanatory note about this scheme is that all donations will be retained by the ICA and will only be used when the project definitely receives the green light. In the unlikely event that the project has to be aborted ALL DONATIONS WILL BE REFUNDED.

If you prefer a Standing Order donation method, then a form can be obtained from Robert Blair (robbieb07@btinternet.com).

This magnificent Centre will not happen without your help.

Both ICA and the Parish Council are aware that some you have issues, views and, no doubt, questions you would like answered. Effective communication is not easy but we do our best. The ICA is holding its AGM on 7th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed, at about 8pm by an Open Meeting. Please come along, we want and need to exchange views and will do our best to answer your questions.

Concluding on a positive note, Mark Goldsack has taken up the Chair of the Fundraising Committee and Glenda Preece is helping with Grant Seeking. We really need one more grant seeker. Please contact us if you are willing to give it a go. Don't worry if you haven't done it before – help is at hand. We are also forming a committee to forward think how the Centre will be run. Again, if you are interested please contact Diane Bayliss (781687; islehampc@btinternet.com).

Finally, I would like to thank the Cricket Club, and others, for their donations.

Philip Aspland, ICA Chair

Isleham Angling Society 2009

The final match of the first year Society's Junior Summer League was held on 11th October. It was won by Shane Dunbavin, followed by Alastair Carver and Gavin Dunbavin. James Sykes was the overall winner of the League, with Shane and Gavin Dunbavin joint runners-up.

Nine of the juniors challenged six Society Seniors on 25th October, eventually losing out by 97 points to 105. The best fish was a 12 oz chub caught by Ryan Boston-Milne. The River Lark club, run by Ivan Houghton, has had a successful first year with 18 children taking part. If you want more information, please call Ivan on 01638 780333. ■



Back row from left: George Casey, Shane Dunbavin, Alistair Carver, Andrew Thompson, Ivan Houghton. Front row: James Sykes, Ryan Boston-Milne, Kris Dunbavin, Gavin Dunbavin

ICA Donations

Following the recent request for "Buy a Brick" donations in the special edition of the *Informer*, may I thank those people who have already contributed towards the Isleham Community Association fund. It is especially encouraging to hear that some people have set up direct debits to support us, some on a monthly basis and some annually. Please keep your donations coming in, not forgetting to include a Gift Aid declaration, as your support is paramount to the success of the project.

May I also remind those of you that make purchases on the internet that if you go through **easyfundraising.org.uk**, and choose Isleham Community Association as your supported charity, we will receive donations directly from the retailer (many thanks to the people who have already started to use the site).

Also through this fundraising site you can benefit from special offers, for example:

ARGOS SPECIAL OFFER

It's never too early to start thinking about your Christmas decorations. Get a festive 20% OFF Christmas trees, lights and decorations at Argos when you use the eVoucher code 'XMAS20' on the payment details page at checkout. Offer Expires: 24th December 2009

If you visit the site you will see that many other retailers are offering seasonal promotions, so happy shopping!

Tim Washtell (Donations co-ordinator)

ICA Grand Yard Sale Weekend

Do you have a garage, shed or cupboard full of stuff that you are going to sell at a car boot one day, but never seem to make it there? Do you have a hoard of items that you don't really want to throw away because they might have some value, but are now storing more of these than you are using? We think we have the answer.

On the weekend of 10th and 11th April we are having Isleham's Grand Yard Sale Weekend. Simply contact Mark Goldsack, 01638 780350, and you will be added to the growing list of those people who on either or both days that weekend will sell their goods from their homes. The ICA will advertise the times and events, and hope to replicate the very successful idea of the open gardens when numerous people walk around the village and visit each yard sale in turn. Imagine a yard sale where someone else is almost guaranteeing multiple attendees for you. That is the event!

Up front it will cost you nothing! What we ask is that you make a donation, with a suggested minimum of 50% of your day's takings, to the ICA. So, if you answered yes to the initial questions and have an interest in clearing the storage space, making money and supporting the Village Community Centre campaign, please call Mark asap to register your involvement.

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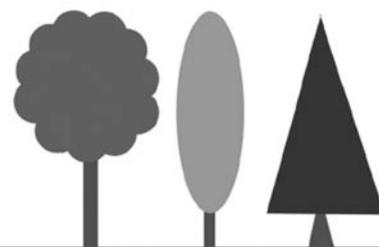
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If you're interested in anything to do with nature in Isleham then please come along to a meeting on Monday 8th February, 7.30pm in the Village Hall back room.

We're starting up a group who are interested in looking after and being involved with the nature spots around Isleham. Please just come along or to find out more contact Charlotte Lowry, 01223 715557, charlotte.lowry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

We're also looking for volunteers to help out a work party at Isleham Local Nature Reserve – the disused railway line – on Wednesday 27th January from 10.30–3.30. We'll be cutting back scrub to reclaim important grassland habitat. All tools and training (plus tea and coffee!) provided, bring clothing and boots for all weathers and a packed lunch. Just turn up or contact Charlotte Lowry for more info.

Green Tip: Reduce vehicle weight, wind resistance and fuel consumption by removing unnecessary items such as heavy tools, golf clubs and the roof rack.

Further driving tips available at: www.bbc.co.uk/bloom/actions/ecodriving.shtml ■



Volunteers raking up grass cuttings from the last work party on 21st October.

The Isleham Society

17th September A coach visited the Cambridge Folk Museum. We were taken on a guided tour by two of the staff who showed and talked about many things of local interest including items from their Fen Collection, which was especially interesting to those of our party who had experienced the use of some of them, such as ice-skates and various hand tools. Refreshments were enjoyed at the end of the tour before we spent an hour or two exploring and eating in Cambridge.

15th October Graeme Lockhart and his wife gave an illustrated talk on 'Creating an environmentally friendly home'. Many of you will have seen his distinctive house (and wind generator) on the right-hand side of the road as you approach Ely from Stuntney, just before crossing the river. Their visit aroused much interest in our village and ensured we had a good number in attendance, with many questions.

19th November Robin Page was booked to give an illustrated talk but, being unable to attend, his friend John Terry took his place at short notice; he is the Conservation and Wild Life Advisor to the 'Countryside Restoration Trust'. There will be a report on this in the next *Informer*.

Footpaths of Isleham

We have had a reprint done of the Footpaths of Isleham and have distributed a free copy to the newer households. It is inevitable that we have missed some; if a new householder would like to receive some, please see me or a member of the Isleham Society and we will arrange for you to have a copy. The Parish Council has also been given some copies to distribute.

Apologies for the long report, our last was omitted.

Vernon Place, Chairman of the Isleham Society

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Parish Council News

The following are the abbreviated and incomplete versions of the IPC minutes for the September and October 2009 meetings. Any parishioner may request a copy of the full minutes from the IPC.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

Present: Cllrs Beckett, Garbett, Carter, Neal, Earl, Wilkes, Malkin, R Thompson, Hobbs, County Councillor Powley, 3 Parishioners, Tom King (Youth Worker), Andy King (Fenland Elite Bus Project)

Apologies: Cllr H Thompson, Cllr Baines

POLICE MATTERS

- The police are aware of speeding in Mill Street and Speed Watch is being carried out in the area.

RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

- An application has been received from the family of Ian Humphries asking if a memorial bench may be sited on the recreation ground. The Council approved this proposal in principle but suggest waiting until final decisions have been made about the new community centre site.
- Concerns were raised in Parishioners' Question Time about play area safety as balls are being kicked over into the play area; the Council will obtain a quote from Palmers to put a six foot fence above the current fence and the flat roof.

CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD MATTERS

- The notice of consecration has been put in the papers and on noticeboards around the village.
- The first burial has taken place in the new section of the cemetery.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- A vegetable packing plant sign is needed on the A142 at the Fordham junction to indicate that lorries should go straight ahead rather than through Isleham village.
- Traffic calming measures are needed on the Fordham Road, County Councillor Powley advised this would have to be applied for under the Jointly Funded Minor Highway Improvement bidding round.
- It was suggested that a sign might be necessary on Fordham Road by the Nature Reserve to make drivers aware of the concealed entrance. This will be passed onto County Council, although so far there have been no accidents at this spot.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- The Soham Vision consultation day was a success and there could be considerable benefit to Isleham if the proposed Eastern gateway should get the go ahead.

ALLOTMENT MATTERS

- A number of allotments have been let over the summer and advertising is to be continued in the *Isleham Informer*.
- It was agreed that the allotment and Lugger Bank rents be increased to 80p per rod.
- It was proposed that approval is given to Mr Doggett to have a maximum of 15 chickens on his plot, that approval is given to Mr Willoughby to erect a shed (max 6x8') and to have a maximum of 15 chickens on his plot.
- It was agreed that the Council make enquiries to the County Council about the possible purchase of the Three Tree allotment site.
- Application for Dunstall Apprentice Grant: it was agreed that the application for the apprentice grant from Justin Dillon is approved.

WASH MATTERS

- A meeting was held on the Wash in the summer with James Hooker of the EA; however, there has been no information received about the gate.

ISLEHAM MARINA

- The local Vicar has approached the Ely Diocese to have Isleham Marina moved from the Ipswich Diocese because many people living there wish to hold christenings, weddings and funerals in the village church. In light of this would it be desirable/possible

to have the boundary changed to include Isleham Marina in Cambridgeshire instead of Suffolk as it is currently? A letter needs to be sent to Cambs CC giving a logical explanation as to why the Marina should be included in Cambridgeshire. The process is likely to take at least two years.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

- Proposed 1½ storey dwelling and parking on land to rear of 48 West Street, Isleham for Mr & Mrs J Fleet – too high; out of keeping with the area (Beech Close).
- Detached single storey dwelling on land to rear of 48 West Street Isleham for Mr & Mrs J Fleet – no objection.

Planning Approvals

- Single storey bedroom extension at 13A Station Road, Isleham for Mrs Davies.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 5th OCTOBER

Present: Cllrs Beckett, Carter, Earl, Neal, Garbett, Baines, Wilkes, Malkin, Hobbs, H Thompson, 4 Parishioners, County Councillor Palmer

Apologies: Cllr Mrs R Thompson, CCllr Powley

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

- The sound system in the hall has been repaired.
- Changes have been made to the work required on the recreation ground. Mumby Landscapes have agreed to spray the old section of the recreation ground but the seeding needs to wait until the spring when growing conditions will be better.
- It was agreed that two notices (18x12 and 12x6) are ordered to be erected on the play area gate and the recreation ground railing stating that no dogs are allowed by order of Isleham Parish Council.
- A notice will also be placed in the *Informer* as a reminder of this.
- It was agreed that the quotation from Palmers for making a structure to go above the existing gates to prevent the ball from going into the play area is approved.

CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD MATTERS

- No responses have been received by the Clerk about the consecration of the cemetery land, therefore a letter will be sent to the Ely Diocese requesting that arrangements are made to consecrate the land at their earliest convenience.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A reply has been received from the RAF concerning the increased air traffic over Isleham earlier this year; the letter also states that there may be increased activity next year and that the local press are usually notified when this is going to be the case.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Consideration is being given to the possibility of a roundabout on the A142 East Fen Road/Hasse Road. The County Council are fully behind the proposal.
- A sign is needed on the A142 by Turners directing lorry traffic onto the bypass so that they don't go through Fordham and then into Isleham.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Concerns were raised about the condition of the Lime Kilns.
- Concerns were raised about the containers which are being placed on the parking spaces on Croft Road by Sanctuary Hereward.

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS

- The tree on The Pound overshadowing a parishioner's garden; the council will contact the tree officer to obtain permission for work to be carried out and obtain quotes for the work.
- A response has been received from the County Council regarding the requested signs for the carrot factory and the nature reserve. However, the council are not satisfied with the outcome and another letter will be sent explaining that a sign is needed on the roundabout nearest Fordham diverting traffic onto the bypass and another one at the East Fen Road junction of the A142.

PLANNING MATTERS

- Erection of detached house and garage to the rear of existing dwelling at 8 East Fen Road, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Baines – no objection but comment that it is a large dwelling for the plot.
- Proposed rear extension garden room with additions and alterations at 13 Beech Close, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Oliver – no objection.
- Extension and loft conversion at Wayside Farm, 19 Fordham Road, Isleham for Mr C Harvey – no objection.
- Two-storey extension & alterations to property at 17 East Road, Isleham for Mr James Bailey – no objection.
- Residential development for six dwellings at 55 Sun Street, Isleham for Mr & Mrs Waugh – no objection.
- Demolition of existing village hall and pavilion to provide new single storey community centre with play area, vehicular drop-off point and associated parking. Relocation of all-weather football pitch and column lighting, kick wall and cricket nets at Isleham Recreation Ground Mill Street, Isleham for Isleham Parish Council
- Construction of single storey extension incorporating ramped access at Community Centre, 4 Limestone Close, Isleham for Sanctuary Hereward Housing Association. ■

Isleham Parish Plan – A brief analysis

With the help of Cambridge ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) a group of villagers, including two Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk, devised a questionnaire to enable villagers to express their views about the way they would like Isleham to develop, the things they appreciate about our village, and those they would like to change.

Last winter this questionnaire was distributed to every household in Isleham. By early this year 294 households had responded to the questionnaire, representing 716 people.

Since then the group has been working to analyse the responses. From this a Parish Plan has been developed, which addresses the topics raised. Further information will be printed in the *Informer* in future editions, and below is a brief view of the information we gained.

- 83% think the school is very important
- 71.5% work outside Isleham
- 55% of people use the shops weekly
- 37% of people use the Post Office weekly
- 72% read every issue of the *Informer*; of these 46% of readers would like more items on leisure
- Although only 5.3% of people have problems collecting prescriptions, 73.4% would collect them from the Post Office if this were possible.
- 68.5% concerned about lack of off road parking
- 66.9% concerned about speeding
- 48.6% would like to see a good Neighbour Scheme and 55% of people would help occasionally with it
- 67.5% think there should be a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village and 50.3% would join it
- 61.8% are concerned about vandalism
- 74.5% are concerned about litter and graffiti
- 70% would like a greater police presence
- 69% felt that religious groups make a positive contribution to the community
- 67.5% think litter is a problem in the village
- 83.5% want dog waste bins
- 73% want a public report in the *Informer*

Parish Councillors address list

Derrick Beckett (Chairman)	Appleyard Farm, 1 Houghtons Lane, Isleham CB7 5SR Tel: 01638 780476
Terry Carter (Vice Chairman)	5 Old School Close, Soham CB7 5WD Tel: 07905 705302
Steven Baines	Emmanuel House, 8 East Fen Road, Isleham CB7 5SW Tel: 01638 780406
Martin Earl	83 The Causeway, Isleham CB7 5TA Tel: 01638 780766
Jeannette Malkin	17 Little London, Isleham CB7 5SE Tel: 01638 780283
Lionel Neal	104 Beck Road, Isleham CB7 5QP Tel: 01638 780066
Geoff Garbett	16 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 780863
Elaine Hobbs	Portman House, 7 The Birches, Soham CB7 5FH Tel: 01353 725818
Hazel Thompson	9 Limestone Close, Isleham CB7 5RP Tel: 01638 780633
Roseanna Thompson	Fenrose Farm, 1 Fen Bank, Isleham CB7 5SL Tel: 01638 780994
Pauline Wilkes	6 Limestone Close, Isleham CB7 5RP Tel: 01638 780640
Diane Bayliss (Parish Clerk)	37 Croft Road, Isleham CB7 5QR Tel: 01638 781687 islehampc@btinternet.com www.isleham-village.co.uk

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The latest Soham and East area Neighbourhood Panel meeting took place at Soham Village College on Tuesday, 7th October. Cllr Derrick Beckett confirmed that, as ever, actions had been taken to address ALL the issues of concern raised by local residents at the last Panel meeting (1st July).

Full details of the 'Update on actions' can be accessed from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage via the A-Z section of the District Council's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk (together with the minutes, the answers to Frequently Asked Questions, Profile and all other NP information).

A joint Panel meeting (with the South area Panel) will be held in the spring to consult on the Wicken Fen Vision. Details will be available in the next edition of the magazine, on the Neighbourhood Panel webpage and in the press.

Specific issues raised from our village

- Speeding on Fordham Road (at least 23% of all motorists have been speeding, with 133 letters sent out – prior to potential further action to be taken against them);
- Concern re. 60 to 30 mph zone (consideration of phasing 60- 40- 30 mph);

- Parking on double-yellow lines outside the Co-op;
- Speeding in Station Road and Beck Road...racing youths on Friday and Saturday evenings;
- Parking issue on Beck Road/Malting Lane corner (a blind bend) at 'school times';
- Change in refuse/recycling arrangements has caused some problems for residents.

Please come to the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting at Soham Village College (Beechurst Hall) on Wednesday, 6th January, 7.00–9.00pm.

You will be very welcome!

If you have an issue of concern, but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Cllr Geoff Garbett or Alan Williams (Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator) alan.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk or by phone on 01353 665555. ■

Isleham Primary School Disability Equality Scheme

Staff and Governors at Isleham Primary School are currently drawing up a scheme to increase access to education for disabled pupils. The purpose of the scheme is to show how the school is going to meet the duty to promote disability equality for disabled pupils, staff and parents. Involving disabled people in developing the school's Disability Equality Scheme is not only a legal requirement but also brings real benefit and relevance to the school's future plans. The school would welcome the views of parents, carers and other users of the school on any of the following areas:

- Ensuring equality of access for disabled pupils to all areas of the curriculum including extra curricular activities
- Ensuring physical access for disabled people to the school buildings and grounds
- Improving the delivery to disabled pupils, parents and carers of information provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled
- Promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people
- Encouraging participation by disabled people in public life.

As many of you will already be aware the Disability and Discrimination Act 2005 gives the definition of disability as: "A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities." This can include those who suffer from loss of mobility, hearing impairment, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, learning difficulties, visual impairment, autism, ADHD, significant dyslexia as well as those with cancer or surviving cancer following treatment.

Please feel free to contact the school office if you would like to join our Disability Equality working group or contribute your views. ■

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Bowls Club Report

Chris Dunkley, Andy Gillett, Robert Cole, Jeff Marsh, Michael Bartlett, Denny Raven, Barry Clarke, Terry Sharplin, Herbie Beckett, Barry Grimwood, Darren Dunbavin, Brian Pope

This time of year is always relatively quiet for the club. During November the club holds its annual general meeting to elect the 'willing' volunteers to serve the club for another 12 months.

We have just recently held a jumble sale and trivia evening, and in December we are hosting a 'Christmas Prize Bingo' to help raise those important £££s to keep the club functioning.

As reported in the last *Informer*, the men's team were successful in winning the KO Cup in September and I now have a 'rogue's gallery' of the team for you to admire! Well done Boys!

The carpet bowls season has commenced: Team 1 have won one out of four thus far and Team 2 are still looking for that first elusive win after four matches. We continue to meet on a Friday evening for our internal league and this has been well supported thus far.

Barry Grimwood, Club Captain

Ely, Soham & District Dial-a-Ride

Dial-a-Ride is here to help if you need us. Do you have difficulties getting about? WE CAN HELP! We offer a reliable, affordable and friendly door-to-door community transport service.

Dial-a-Ride is available to those of all ages who cannot use or do not have access to the public transport services whether through disability, frailty or simply because of where you live. You can use Dial-a-Ride to do your weekly shopping, attend that essential appointment, access the public transport system or just visit friends. Our friendly drivers will even carry your shopping from the minibus to your door.

We also offer a wide variety of excursions on a monthly basis ranging from pub lunches and trips to regional shopping centres, to theatre trips and places of interest. These offer a fantastic opportunity to get out and about and also travel with or meet new friends.

Our service is invaluable to the community, but don't just take our word for it – here are some of our members' comments about the service:

"You have brought mobility and sunshine into my life."

"Since being left on my own, getting around had been a problem. Thanks to you I am now mobile again."

"I can meet other people and make friends."

"Thanks for making shopping stress free."

On call to all local charities, social groups and non-profit making organisations we offer an affordable group hire service. Minibuses are available for hire on weekdays, evenings and weekends for short or long trips and can be booked for regular trips if required.

Want to find out more? Ring us on 01353 661161 – we will answer any of your questions and provide you with a full information pack about all of the services we currently offer. ■

Adult and Community Learning at Soham Village College

The last couple of years have been difficult for Community Education, and the local providers (Bottisham, Burwell and Soham Village College) have had to make some difficult decisions. I am pleased to be able to tell you that all three centres are still able to provide classes for the community.

Due to difficulties with funding for accredited courses, Soham Village College has decided to focus on general interest classes. We are in the process of developing a new programme and would be delighted to hear from members of the community if there is a demand for a particular activity.

We plan to offer two different art classes, Keep Fit, Pilates, and English as an additional language next term. We also offer ballet and tap classes for children. You can find our programme on the college website, www.sohamvc.org. If you would like any further information, please contact Julia Hammond on 01353 722297 or email jhammond@soham-college.org.uk. ■

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Advice from your local PCSO

Once again, we have had a bad few weeks with regard to accidents on the roads. There have been several of incidents in the recent bad weather on the A142 Soham bypass, in particular at the crossroads of East Fen Road and Knaves Acre Drove. Please take care whilst using our roads and adjust your driving to accommodate adverse weather conditions.

Simple steps to take include:

- Leaving enough distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you.
- Be aware that the road may be slippery with heavy rain or leaves falling from trees.
- During high winds, be aware of your surroundings; weak branches or rubbish may suddenly be blown into the road.
- Be aware of other road users leave enough time when pulling out of junctions.
- Allow extra time for your journey when conditions are tricky.

Thank you and be safe!

South Neighbourhood Policing Team: 0345 456 456 4 for non emergencies, and of course 999 for emergencies.

Barb Neill PCSO 7237 Mobile: 077360 86870 Mobex:

7111222 email: barb.neill@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Women's Institute

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

2009 has been a busy year for members of the WI.

The AGM in February was followed by our main fund-raiser of the year, our jumble sale. In June we ran a Spring Fair on behalf of

the new Community Centre and also went on a Summer outing to Chilford Hall.

Our President, Janice Pope, went to the Albert Hall as the representative of our group. The speakers there included Maureen Lipman, who entertained the delegates and spoke about her support of WI campaigns; the journalist Eve Pollard; and musician Richard Stilgoe with The Orpheus Centre apprentices. Members also attended the Cambridgeshire Federation Council Evening.

In July we entered a float in the Gala, celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, and in August Eve Graham held a coffee morning on our behalf. Hopefully these will become a regular feature.

In November we contributed a tree to the Festival of Light, and all enjoyed the wonderful display in the Church.

During the year many members take advantage of the visits organised by the Cambridge Federation, and this year have been to Southwold, Calke Abbey, the Victoria and Albert Museum, a tour of the old and modern Canary Wharf and the Heritage Year of Limehouse.

We are a very friendly group who meet at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month, and all are welcome. If you would like more information please get in touch with Glenda Preece on 01638 780735 or email gjpreece@aol.com ■

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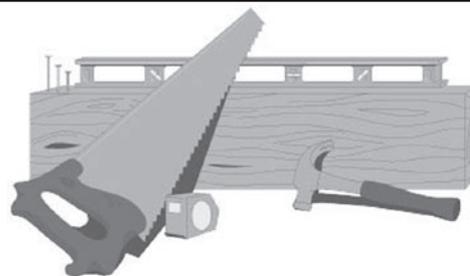
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Saturday 12th December. Isleham Social Centre 1-4pm

Santa's grotto, crafts, stalls and much more

PTA Annual Quiz Night

February 2010

£20 per Team (max 4 people).

Price includes BBQ Supper.

Look out for posters around the village early 2010 for more information.



The Isleham Sports and Gala Committee held their AGM in October. Two long-standing members of the Committee, Roseanna Thompson and Pauline Wynne, stood down, and we would like to thank them for their hard work over a number of years, which has been very much appreciated.

It was agreed that £200 should be donated to the Isleham Swimming Pool Association.

Next Year's Gala will be held on Saturday 3rd July, and planning for this will begin at our next meeting, which will be held at The Griffin on Monday 18th January 2010 at 8pm. Thanks to the Landlord. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Fred Preece (Chair) 01638 780734 fpreece2@aol.com



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JOYCE'S CORNER The Invader

I got up this morning to make my tea,
I'm always looking for something creepy.
Sometimes it's an earwig or ant in the sink
But this big invader was sleepy.

I saw this huge thing in the kitchen,
He was living down in my sink.
He'll wish he had never entered my house
But I had to stop and think.

Could I grab him before he could escape?
I had to try and unlock the door.
Then I got him in a headlock
So he couldn't escape to the floor.

I didn't want him in my kitchen.
It's not wise to mess with me.
I'm sure I broke two of his legs
But he's got six more you see.

I let him loose outside the door,
He crawled away quite fast.
I've got conkers in to ward them off
And hope the chestnut shell will last.

If another spider invades my sink
I won't cause him too much pain.
I'll turn my taps on fully
So he can cruise right down the drain.

Joyce Drayton

Isleham Charities' Christmas Vouchers

Dear Isleham Parishioners,

In December, the Trustees of the Isleham Charities' Partnership will again be distributing CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS to retired people of pensionable age who have been resident in Isleham for over a year.

If you are a pensioner, of Isleham, or of Isleham Fen, this may then entitle you to receive the Christmas Vouchers, to spend either at the Isleham Co-operative Stores, or at the Isleham Post Office Stores.

There is also provision in the Scheme for modest grants to be awarded, for example, to young people starting work, who need to purchase essential tools of their trade.

Notices have been on display in Isleham shops since October, just to remind you.

Derrick Beckett,
Chairman of the Isleham Charities' Partnership
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INFORMATION

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Fares: Adult Bus Pass Holders £2.50 Return
Adults £5 Return

Our buses are accessible to all, however to improve customer service, wheelchair users and those with small children requiring booster seats are advised to contact Ely/Soham Dial-a-Ride in advance: Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride 01353 661161
This service is financially supported by Isleham Parish Council.

Mobile Library

Stops alternate Thursdays. Next visits: 1st, 15th and 29th October, 12th and 26th November. For more information phone 08450 455 225.

Stop	Arrive	Depart
Church Street	10:25	12:05
Beck Road (near Malting Lane)	12:10	13:05
Mill Street (corner of Limestone Close)	14:15	16:00

Child Health Clinic

Soham Child and Family Team Child Health Clinic will be in Isleham Village Hall with the Tea & Toast group on the second and fourth Thursdays every month from 10–11am. For more information phone Naomi Greener on 01353 624411.

Useful phone numbers

Emergency for Police, Fire, Ambulance 999
Police (Cambridgeshire) 0845 4564564
Accident & Casualty (Addenbrooke's)
. 01223 217118
Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge) 01223 245151
Newmarket Hospital 01638 665111
West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds)
. 01284 713000
Staploe Medical Centre (Soham) - Appointments
. 01353 624121
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Minor Treatment Centre, Ely 01353 652162
NHS Direct (for advice) 0845 4647
Electricity Emergencies 0800 7838838
Gas Emergencies 0800 371787
Water & Sewage Emergencies 0345 145145
Social Services - office hours 01733 561370
- out of hours emergency 01733 561370
Refuse Collection 01353 863864
RSPCA 0870 555999
Citizens Advice Bureau 0845 130 6442
Ely 01353 661416
Mildenhall 01638 712094
Newmarket 01638 665999
District Councillor (Derrick Beckett) . . . 01638 780476
Isleham Village Hall (Jeanette Malkin) 01638 780283
Parish Council (Diane Bayliss: Clerk) . . 01638 781687
Member of Parliament (Jim Paice) . . . 01954 211450

Burwell and District Motor Service

Local bus and coach services were provided by Burwell & District Motor Service for over 60 years. It ran mainly between Burwell and Cambridge but also extended to Soham and Isleham, with services running to Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket on market days. In summer regular trips were run to Felixstowe, Great Yarmouth and London Zoo.

The company sold out to Eastern Counties Bus Co. in June 1979, when the familiar brown and cream buses were replaced by red ones. Burwell & District Bus Preservation Society acquired and renovated a Daimler double-decker, registration number 9DER, and this has pride of place at Burwell Museum.

Due to the popularity of this Village Bus and the memories it brings, Friends of the Museum have commissioned a limited edition bus to represent one of a pair of ex-London transport double-deckers in operation from 1956–1965 by Burwell & District Motor Service. Mounted in a sturdy plastic case, these are available from 'Tina's' in Burwell @ £7.50 each; postage can be arranged.

Contact Jim Neale on 01638 742370 ■



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Village clubs: information

If you would like details of your club meeting times to appear here, please contact Glenda Preece on 01 638 780734 or email gjpreece@aol.com

CLUB	CONTACT	TEL	DAY/DATE	TIME	PLACE
Art Group	Sally	01 638 780023	Tuesdays	7-9pm	Village Hall
Book Club	Anna Chataway	01 638 561005	Fridays	2pm	Social Centre
Brownies	Annette May	01 638 780934	Thursdays	6-7.15pm	Village Hall
Busy Bees	Mel Jones	01 638 780902	Tuesdays	9.30-11.30am	Village Hall
Craft Club	Hazel Thompson	01 638 780633	Tuesdays	1.30-4pm	Social Centre
Cubs	Angela Dann	01 638 781947	Tuesdays	6.30-8pm	Village Hall
French Conversation	Francine	Francine@the waytofrance.com	Monday	6-7.15pm	1 Church St
Gala Committee	Fred Preece	01 638 780734	3rd Monday	8pm	The Griffin
Isleham Society	Vernon Place	01 638 780449	3rd Thursday	7.45pm	Village Hall
Keep Fit: Aerobics Pilates	Parris Williams	01 638 781663	Thursday	7-8pm 8-9pm	Village Hall
Line Dancing	Andrew Palmer	01354 696063	Mondays	7.45-10.15pm	Village Hall
Little Stars Drama	Stephanie Eustice	07788 425733	Tuesdays	4.30-6pm	Village Hall
Ruth Bendall School of Dance	Ruth Bendall	01 638 780260	Wednesdays Saturdays	4.30pm 9am	Village Hall Village Hall
Tea & Toast	Claire Freeman	07827 234442	Thursdays	9.30-11.30am	Village Hall
W.I.	Glenda Preece	01 638 780734	2nd Thursday	7.30pm	Village Hall

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Three Rivers Group St Andrew's Parish Church

Advent events

Friday 27th – Sunday 29th November Festival of Light

Sunday 29th November 10.30am Group Service

Thursday 10th December School Christingle Service in Church at 2pm – **All are welcome!**

Tuesday 22nd December 7.30pm A Three Rivers Group Service at Fordham Church. A Quiet Christmas, a service for people who find Christmas a difficult time and for those who enjoy stillness and reflection.

Christmas Eve 4pm Carols by Candlelight and Nativity
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am Holy Communion

27th December 10.30am Group Service at Kennett Church

January Services as normal at 9.30am.

25th January 7.30pm Book Group at The Social Centre, looking at *The Shack* by Wm Young. For a copy of the book (£4) call Kate Peacock 723960.

31st January Group Service at 10.30 am at Snailwell.

Regular Church Services

Sundays: The main service is at 9.30 am. Junior Church is in the Social Centre, and in church the third Sunday of each month for All Age Worship.

Midweek services

Mon – Weds: 9am Morning Prayer, Fordham

Thurs, Fri: 8.15am Morning Prayer Fordham

Monday: 3.30pm Evening Prayer Kennett (in school in term time)

Tuesday: 4.30pm Evening Prayer. Limestone Close (Last Tuesday of the month, Holy Communion)

Wednesday: Evening Prayer 4.15pm Snailwell, Holy Communion 5.30pm Chippenham

Weekly Activities

Tuesday: 9am–12 noon: Coffee Morning in Social Centre

Friday: Choir Practice 6.30pm in church. All welcome. Contact Mark Liversidge 01638 781696. Bell ringing practice 7.30pm – beginners welcome! Contact Ruth Ogden, the Tower Captain, for more information

Sundays@6. Our Youth Group

Our Youth group meets twice a month at the Old Vicarage in Isleham; we hope that many other young people will join us. Details from Rev'd Kate or Rev'd Mike.

Priests

The Rev'd Mike Banyard is the Rector of the Three Rivers group of parishes; he lives in Chippenham with his wife, Helen, who is a Licensed Lay Minister. Mike is available to all in the village for a listening ear, and for baptisms, weddings and funerals. 01638 721616 banyardmg1@yahoo.co.uk.

The Rev'd Kate Peacock is the Associate Priest in the Three Rivers group of Parishes: she lives in Fordham with husband Daniel and their two young daughters. 01638 723960 kate.peacock@bopenworld.com

The Rev'd Dr Jenny Gage: Jenny is the Curate in the Group, lives in Ely and ministers with us mainly on Sundays and Mondays.

Mike, Kate and Jenny are assisted by the Rev'd Canon Tim

Elbourne (*Diocesan Director of Education*) and the Rev'd

Sandie Butler and Helen Banyard (*Licensed Lay Minister*).
Churchwardens Rob Savage: 01638 780218, robert.savage[at]islehamchurch.org.uk; Nick Carver: 01638 781116, nick.carver[at]islehamchurch.org.uk

Tower Captain Ruth Ogden: 01638 780646, ruth.ogden[at]islehamchurch.org.uk

Choir Director Mark Liversidge: 01638 781696, mark.liversidge[at]islehamchurch.org.uk

Webmaster Andrew Stephens: 01638 781468/780229

Service Sheet Editor Rob Savage: 01638 780218 robert.savage[at]islehamchurch.org.uk

For more information about the Group and St Andrew's please visit our web site at www.islehamchurch.org.uk

Pound Lane Free Church

As I write this we are right in the middle of processing the shoe boxes for this year's **Operation Christmas Child Campaign**. We want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who has helped in any way, either preparing a box, giving fillers, knitting, or coming along to help sort and pack all of the boxes from eastern Cambridgeshire. It's been great to see old friends again and lovely to meet new ones who have come this year for the first time.

The boxes are going to Belarus again this year and you can be sure that they will make a great deal of difference to disadvantaged children in that country as they show God's love in action.

Our **Christmas services** this year are:

Candlelit Carol Service

Sunday 20th December at 6.15pm. A service of traditional carols by candlelight, with children's and young people's groups from the church taking part. We will also be showing this year's **Operation Christmas Child DVD**.

Christmas Day Family Service

25th December 10.30am Join us on Christmas Day as we give thanks for the greatest gift of all time – the gift of Jesus. Children are encouraged to bring a present to 'show'.

Both services will be followed by refreshments and we promise you a warm welcome at both.

High Street Church

Look out for details of our Christmas Production, which will be held on Saturday 19th December or Sunday 20th December. Everyone welcome!

You are warmly invited to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with us at our **Christmas Morning Service** at 11am on 25th December.

Sunday Services: All are welcome to our Sunday services throughout the year.

Morning worship: 10.30am All ages are very welcome from the very young to the very old. The children have their own activities.

Evening fellowship: 6.30pm A less formal service usually with opportunity for individual sharing. Come and hear about God's goodness! Tea, coffee and good conversation are available after both the morning and evening services!

On Sunday mornings the following children's facilities are available: **Crèche** is available for babies and tots up to 3 years old: the crèche workers are very experienced and provide a safe, fun playtime for the little ones. Junior Church for those who are aged 3 to 7 is a fun-filled session with singing, crafts, drama and stories. The older **Junior Church** meet at the Village Hall. This is for children who are 7 to 11 years old. (That's the noise you've heard from the Village Hall on a Sunday morning!) Their morning starts from 10am with a craft, followed by a wide range of activities encouraging the children to discover the Christian faith for themselves. We would love to see some new faces and visitors would be made very welcome! Nikao is the name for the 11 to 14 year olds and on a Sunday morning they receive teaching that is relevant to pre-teens/teenagers. On a Friday night this group meets socially and they all have a lot of laughs!

Weekly Activities

Are you interested in how to stay active in later life? If so, we are running an exercise class for the more mature on Monday afternoons at 2pm at the Chapel.

Our **Rendezvous** group – for the more mature among us – meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3pm. Around 60 to 70 of us enjoy this time together each week but new faces are always welcome.

Luncheon Club is for those of retirement age and happens once a month on the second Wednesday from 12–2pm. An excellent meal for just £2 not to mention the great company! Numbers are limited for this but please contact us if you are interested. For anybody who would like to come along to either of these groups there is free transport available where necessary. Perhaps you'd like to be kept informed of any outings we arrange, or you need help to complete some paperwork such as benefit forms, or perhaps you don't know who to ask for help with transport for hospital visiting. Please don't hesitate to ring; we'd love to help if we can. For further details on any of the above, please contact Kathryn on 01638 780652 or the Church Office.

Little Lambs is our parent/carer and toddler group which runs term time Fridays from 9.15 – 11.15. Parents/carers can relax with a coffee while the children play. Each week we have a craft activity, juice time and end the morning with singing. All welcome!

Alpha (Tim Malkin 01638 780592)

Now internationally acclaimed, this introduction to Christianity is widely accepted as an effective modern day tool to reach those who do not know Jesus. Each evening has an easy social setting, teaching and discussion and is open to all.

Marriage (Paul & Anne Claringbold 01638 780013)

Building a strong and healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime. This 8 week course is designed to both help and strengthen marriages and includes teaching on significant topics such as the art of communication, resolving conflict and having fun together. Each couple's privacy is respected and there are no group discussions.

There are also lots of other midweek activities taking place so whether it be on a Sunday or midweek, we would love to see you. Why not come along or give us a call to find out more.

For more information about any of the events at High Street Church or general advice, call Jane or Sharon in the Church Office on 01638780985 or Paul Hedger (Church leader) on 01638 721291 or go to www.highst.church.uk. ■

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FOOD SERVED

Friday and Saturday 12 noon to 2pm
and 7pm to 9pm

Sunday Lunchtime Roast (advisable to book)

ENTERTAINMENT

• DECEMBER •

Friday 4th: Karaoke with Chas

Friday 18th: Live Music - Jacen

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Karaoke with LaLa

• JANUARY •

Friday 22nd: 'Elvis' is BACK!

Friday 29th: Live Music - Rick Young

OPENING TIMES

Monday: 7pm to 11pm

Tuesday to Thursday: 12 noon to 3pm & 7pm to 11pm

Friday and Saturday: 12 noon to 12 midnight

Sunday: 12 noon to 10.30pm



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